

The IDVA Update



Mitch Daniels - Governor
Tom Applegate - Director

Winter 2007

The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Newsletter

Winter Edition

Seven World War II Veterans Honored



Pictured are, back row from left, Clyde Cutrell, Newport, Indiana; Calvin Maginel, Jonesboro, Illinois; Paul Moxley, Indianapolis and; Lenwood Shirell, Kentucky. Front row from left: Arlis Sizemore, Logansport; Billy Wells, Linton and; Jack Wilson, Rockport.

Indianapolis Star. One by one, the World War II veterans in their 80s stood straight as a representative of the French government pinned the Knight of the French Legion of Honour medal to their chests.

The ceremony in the General Pershing Auditorium at the Indiana War Memorial on Nov. 29th was the latest gesture by the French government to thank, more than 60 years after the invasion of Normandy, the men who freed their country from the Germans.

"For us, the French people, you are heroes," Jean-Baptiste de Boissiere, the consul general of the French Consulate in Chicago, told the veterans.

Proud of their service, yes. But heroes, no, the Army veterans insisted after the ceremony, in which five veterans from Indiana, one from Illinois and another from Kentucky received the medal.

"People have called us heroes at times," said Jack

Wilson, 83, Rockport. "We weren't heroes. We came back; we were survivors. The heroes didn't come home."

The Legion of Honour medal is the highest award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France. In 2004, in recognition of the 60th anniversary of D-Day, then-French President Jacques Chirac invited World War II veterans who fought in France to apply for the honor.

Among those who accepted the offer was Paul Moxley, 86, who grew up on the Southside of Indianapolis and was a star on the Cathedral football and basketball teams.

As Moxley stood in the lobby of the memorial with the medal hanging from a red ribbon, he said he could remember the voices of scores of people singing the French national anthem after U.S. troops liberated Cherbourg.

"They had been under the thumb of the Germans for five years, and they needed some way to express how they felt," Moxley said. "That went right through me, to see these people, older people, with tears in their eyes."

Clyde Cutrell, 86, Newport, said, "I saw my share" of action in the war. He was wounded three times.

Arlis Sizemore, 84, Logansport, said the ceremony made him think again how lucky he had been to live through the war. "The Lord was with me, I guess."

Billy Wells, 82, Linton, said he was amazed to be getting such an honor.

"I don't have the words to express how humble I feel that the French president would take time to honor a lowly American soldier," Wells said of the certificate that bears the president's signature. "That's something to have the president of France to go clear out and touch me after all these years."

For a short bio of the military service of each of the recipients, go to page 2.

ABOUT THE WORLD WAR II VETERANS

CLYDE CUTRELL, 86

Of Newport, enlisted in October 1942 at 22. He was a rifleman with the 314th Infantry, 79th Division. He took part in the Rhineland, Normandy and Northern France campaigns and was wounded in October and again in November 1944. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal with cluster, and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with three bronze battle stars.

PAUL MOXLEY, 86

Of Indianapolis, enlisted in 1942 at 22 and was commissioned in 1943. He was a member of the 39th Infantry, 9th Division, and reached the rank of first lieutenant. He was part of the D-Day + 4 Normandy invasion in June 1944, landing on Utah Beach, and took part in the Normandy and Rhineland campaigns as well as the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded during the liberation of the city of Saint-Lo in July 1945 and a second time during the Rhineland campaign. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal with cluster, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with three bronze battle stars and the World War II Victory Medal.

ARLIS SIZEMORE, 84

Of Logansport, enlisted in May 1943 at 20. He was a member of the 141st Infantry, 36th Division, as a heavy mortar crewman, participating in the Rhineland, Southern France, Central Europe and Italy campaigns, and spearheaded the liberation from Strasbourg to Colmar. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal and the World War II Victory Medal with four bronze battle stars.

BILLY WELLS, 82

Of Linton, enlisted in November 1943 at 18. He was a member of the 291st Infantry, 75th Division, as a heavy machine gunner, participating in the Rhineland campaign and the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded in France at Colmar in February 1945. He earned two Bronze Star medals, the Purple Heart Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with two bronze battle stars and the World War II Victory Medal.

JACK WILSON, 83

Of Rockport, enlisted in March 1943 at 18 and served primarily with the 141st Infantry, 36th Division, achieving the rank of sergeant. He participated in the Italy and the Southern France campaigns. He was wounded in Italy in February 1944 and in France in August 1944. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal with cluster, the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with two bronze battle stars.

LENWOOD SHIRELL

Of Kentucky enlisted in July 1943 at the age of 19 and served with the 289th Infantry, 75th Division. He took part in the Battle of the Bulge and participated in the Rhineland, and Central Europe Campaigns. He was wounded in Belgium in January 1945 and in the south of France in February 1945. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart Medal with cluster, the Good Conduct Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with 3 bronze battle stars.

CALVIN MAGINEL

Of Jonesboro, Illinois joined the Army Reserves in 1942 at the age of 18 and was activated into the Army in April 1943. He served in the 290th Infantry, 75th Division and participated in the Central Europe and Rhineland Campaigns, as well as the Battle of the Bulge. He earned the Bronze Star Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater Medal with 3 bronze battle stars.

This event was co-sponsored by the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indiana War Memorial Commission. Thanks to BG Stewart Goodwin for the use of the facilities and for his assistance in general. Thanks also to the Indianapolis Star for their great coverage. Most of this article was edited from the November 30 edition of the Star. Ed.



Indiana War Memorial

Raymond Baker



The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that Ray Baker has accepted the position of Program Director for the State Approving Agency. Ray joins the Agency transferring from Department of Corrections. Originally from North Carolina, he has two girls Ashanti and Maya, wife Cheryl

and granddaughter Anaya.

He retired from the United States Army after twenty years of service; his primary job function was Nuclear Biological Chemical Specialist. Other job experiences included: Executive Team Leader (Target Corporation), Scheduling Manager (Product Action) and Assets Protection Manager (Sears Store) Ray attended Marian College and received a Bachelor in Business Administration with a major in Human Resources. He also received an Associate Degree from Central Texas Community College with a major in General Studies.

He transferred from the Indiana Department of Correction as Human Resources for the Indianapolis Men's and Women's Community Re-Entry Center. There he maintained all personnel and medical records and managed all personnel action. Ray performs volunteer work with the Reach for Youth organization as a facilitator of the Restorative Justice Program for kids at risk. Favorite activities include football, golf, softball and jazz clubs with his wife.

Marcia Hines



Long time IDVA Receptionist, Marcia Hines, has been selected in a new position with the State Approving Agency. Marcia will be the Program Coordinator for SAA.

Due to the consolidation of the COPE SAA and the IDVA SAA, a new position was needed to help coordinate school and employer visits within the agency. She is a fine selection.

Fred J. Major



The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that Fred J. Major has accepted the position of Program Director for the State Approving Agency. Fred joins the Agency transferring over from Department of Workforce Development (DWD).

While employed with DWD, Fred served as an Unemployment Claimstaker, Reemployment Act (REA) Grant Coordinator and Local Veterans Employment Representative (LVER). As a LVER he conducted outreach activities to promote veterans as job seekers and insured veterans received priority of service in referral to job opportunities. In his latter position he was assigned to both the Shelbyville and Richmond WorkOne offices. He also has extensive supervisory experience working for many years as Executive Director, managing a not-for-profit trade association.

Fred also services the Veterans Community volunteering numerous hours. He is an active member of American Legion Post # 119 serving as a Trustee, Adjutant for the Marine Corp League # 1263 and an active member of VFW Post #2693. He served 6 years in the United States Air Force as a Security Police Law Enforcement Canine (K-9) Specialist from 1967-1973.

Sara 'Jewel' Brammann



The Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs is pleased to announce that Sara 'Jewel' Bramman has accepted the position of Receptionist, replacing Marcia who transferred over to the State Approving Agency.

Jewel is a former state employee, who decided to return after 17 years as a homemaker. Previously she had been employed by the Indiana Supreme Court. She is the

(Continued on Page 4)

daughter of two WWII Army Veterans. Her mother was an Army nurse who went up on the Beaches of Normandy on D-Day +12, her father was a captain with the military police stationed here at Ft. Harrison. Her oldest son Tom, Director of Operations for the State of Indiana for the Air National Guard is also USAF Reserve F-16 fighter pilot, and a former USMC F-18 pilot. She also has one daughter Natalie Holzer formerly of Ch. 13 WTHR.

Stephanie Meyers



This Spring, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs will be hosting an undergrad student from the Indiana University School of Social Work. Stephanie Meyers is a junior in the BSW (Bachelors Social Work) program at IU here in Indianapolis.

Stephanie is a disabled veteran, having spent over ten years in the US Army/Indiana National Guard. Stephanie will be with IDVA as part of her practicum requirements for her undergraduate degree work. Stephanie resides here in Indianapolis with her husband, who is a US Marine veteran of Lebanon/Beirut, and their children.

Record Number Attend New County Service Officer Orientation

January 8, 2008 saw a record number of new County Veteran Service Officers and their assistants attend the New Service Officer Orientation at IDVA. Those attending were:

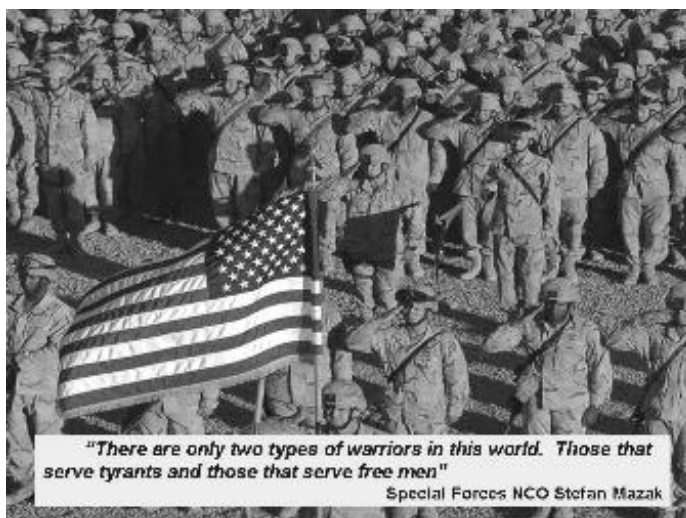
Ron Higgins - Brown County VSO
Tom Glen - Fayette County VSO
Bob Ladd - Howard County VSO
Kevin Hinton - Sullivan County VSO
Matt Taylor - Bartholomew County VSO
James Pickett - Bartholomew County Asst VSO
Dan Archer - Lake County Asst VSO
James Atkinson - Porter County Asst VSO
Virginia Werner - Ripley County Admin Asst

Also attending were INVSO President, Gary Whitehead, and Vice President, Jerry Griffis.

Wreathes Across America



On Saturday, December 15, 2007, at approximately 1000, Mr Allen Manning, Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 55 and Ms Kim Smith, Navy Veteran came to the Indiana Veterans Memorial Cemetery and placed a wreath below the U.S. Army, U. S. Navy, USMC, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Coast Guard Flag to represent the service members interred at this facility. A wreath was also laid below the MIA/POW flag.



First Female General Officer in the Indiana National Guard

Story by: Spc. William E. Henry, Indiana Army National Guard

The normal atmosphere of the Combined Support Maintenance Shop 1 was masked by the smell of catered food and the sounds of the 38th Infantry Division Band Combo playing melodies over the chattering people congregated inside. A garrison American flag made a perfect stage backdrop for the event about to unfold.

It was here, December 2, 2007 that Col. Margaret S. Washburn was formally promoted to brigadier general, the first female general officer in the Indiana National Guard, in the presence of approximately 200 spectators.



Col. Margaret S. Washburn receives her brigadier general stars from Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, The Adjutant General of Indiana, and her husband, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ron Washburn, who also served with the Indiana National Guard. Brig. Gen. Washburn has the distinction of being the first female general officer in the Indiana National Guard. The promotion ceremony took place in Indianapolis on Sunday, December 2. Photo by Sgt. Mike Krieg, Indiana National Guard

This pivotal event in the history of the Indiana National Guard was addressed by the Indiana Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, who spoke of the importance of this promotion and the significance of female Soldiers in the Indiana National Guard.

“This is historic, the first female general officer in the Indiana National Guard,” later adding, “We would be combat ineffective without our female Soldiers.”

Washburn, a resident of Westfield, Ind., started her military career in 1978, commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Indiana Army National Guard. Twenty-eight at the time, Washburn said when she was first commissioned she didn’t think she would ever be a general. “I wasn’t sure if I’d ever make it past captain.”



Newly promoted Brig. Gen. Margaret S. Washburn of the Indiana National Guard is administered the Oath of Office by Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, The Adjutant General of Indiana. Brig. Gen. Washburn has the distinction of being the first female general officer in the Indiana National Guard. The promotion ceremony took place in Indianapolis on Sunday, December 2. Photo by Sgt. Mike Krieg, Indiana National Guard

She spoke on being the first female general in the Indiana National Guard saying, “I believe this opportunity is open to anyone who is qualified to compete for this position. The opportunity is there.”

Now Washburn will be available for appointment to the upper echelons of the Indiana National Guard. Only a select number of positions for general officers are available in the Army National Guard.

Washburn has many years of command background from company to brigade levels, and says she will use her established leadership skills to assist the adjutant general in any position in which she may be placed, stating, “I will rely on my experience and knowledge to further his initiatives.”

* * * * *

Director Addresses Valparaiso Kiwanis Club



IDVA Director, Tom Applegate gave the status of recent veteran-related legislation at a noon luncheon on November 7th.

This annual event to honor veterans, is conducted by the Kiwanis Noon Club of Valparaiso, and is held

at the Strongbow Inn.

Music was provided by the Thomas Jefferson Middle School Band under the direction of Wayne Coil, and the colors were posted by the Porter County Sheriff's Department Color Guard.

After Applegate's speech, he was presented with an American flag by Celina Weatherwax on behalf of Senator Richard Lugar.

Rockville Correctional Facility Conducts Program Donates money to Military Family Relief Fund

Seventy-nine American flags were displayed on the front lawn of the Rockville Correctional Facility, Friday, November 9 in observance of Veteran's Day. The flags remained on display through Veteran's Day, November 12.



American flags, sponsored by facility staff members; were displayed in one of three categories. Flags sponsored in loving memory of an honored veteran were adorned with a black ribbon, those adorned with yellow ribbons represented soldiers currently deployed on active duty and plain flags have been placed in recognition of all other military / veteran status.

The dedication ceremony held that Friday, was attended not only by family and friends of staff, but by



members of surrounding Veteran's organizations. Area Veterans taking part in the dedication included Don Shively, Parke County Veteran's Representative, Fred Sills, member of the local AmVets, who concluded the dedication ceremony with the playing of Taps and several members of the Clinton American Legion and Veteran's of Foreign Wars Honor Guard.

Currently there are twelve staff members with military status employed at the facility with seven on extended military leave. More than thirty staff members of the Rockville Correctional Facility are proud veterans of the United States Armed Forces.

A donation of \$258.00 has been sent to the Indiana Department of Veteran's Affairs – Military Family Relief Support fund through the flag sponsorship and additional donations.



A Note From Lt. Governor Skillman “Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes”



In my office, we have a small staff with a particularly strong military presence. I've got an Army wife, a Navy officer, an Air Guard Reservist and the girlfriend of a National Guardsman on staff. So supporting our military is a big priority for us – it's personal. We're always looking for ways to keep morale up, and we've found one of the best ways for us to do that is through the mail.

Last month, I wrapped up my second holiday letter campaign encouraging Hoosiers to write cards to our country's servicemen and women overseas. “Hoosier Cheer for Our Heroes” gave Hoosiers the opportunity to send their thoughts and prayers to U.S. troops spending the season away from their homes and loved ones.

The level of support and participation in this year's campaign was outstanding. My office received more than 11,000 letters and cards. That more than doubles the original goal of 5,000 cards. They came from church groups, Scout troops, school classes and individuals from all across Indiana, and even out of state.

I was deeply touched by the generosity of those who gave their time to help with the campaign. The number of cards and letters we received shows just how thankful Hoosiers are for our U.S. servicemen and women stationed abroad.

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's “Hoosier Cheer for our Heroes” campaign. People from across the state – and across the country – helped make it a huge success. Together we will bring the warmth of the holiday season to our troops abroad.

IDVA Announces Dates of Spring Conference

IDVA Annual Conference

June 9–12 June 2008
Marriott Inn – East
7202 East 21st Street
Indianapolis, IN 46219

Monday, 9 June 2008

1:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Registration in Atrium

10:00a.m. (tee off time) Golf Outing – Course to be announced. Golfers only required.

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. CVSO Reception - Marriott Inn-East - CVSO's, spouses, IDVA staff, other interested individuals. Refreshments provided. Cash bar.

Tuesday, 10 June 2008

7:00a.m. – 9:00 a.m. - Registration in Atrium
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. - General Session IDVA Conference

4:00 p.m. - Indiana Veterans' Service Officers' Association Meeting
6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Hospitality Room Salons D & E

Wednesday, 11 June 2008

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – New Service Officer Tng
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. – Veterans' Service Organizations Training
6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. – IDVA Banquet – cash bar

Thursday, 12 June 2008

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. - Test - Dismissal

NOTES:

No Registration fees will be charged for the Conference.

IDVA will provide snacks for the Monday night Reception. There will be a cash bar.

Hospitality Room will serve refreshments and soft drinks during specified period on Tuesday.

Wednesday night banquet will be free of charge except for the cash bar.

Guardsman Awarded Purple Heart



Sgt. Tony Maddox and Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, The Adjutant General of Indiana, pose for photos after Sgt. Maddox was awarded the Purple Heart for injuries he received while serving in Iraq. The ceremony took place at Joint Forces Headquarters in Indianapolis on November 30. Photo by Sgt. Mike Krieg, Indiana National Guard

Story by: Spc. William E. Henry, Indiana Army National Guard

An Indiana National Guard Soldier who was deployed to Iraq received a Purple Heart at Joint Forces Headquarters in Indianapolis, November 30.

While deployed, Sgt. Tony Maddox was tasked with the 1313th Engineer Company to spot and clear improvised explosive devices (IEDs) from the roadways for U.S. and Coalition forces in Balad, Iraq. He was subsequently injured by shrapnel when one exploded nearby.

While on patrol on the main supply route, the lead vehicle spotted the device and immediately Maddox moved into position at the gunner hatch in a vehicle.

"Whenever we came across an IED, we always did a 360 degree survey to spot anyone in the distance," said Maddox.

While Maddox was manning the gunner hatch someone was spotted in the distance by Soldiers in the lead vehicle.

"The buffalo (sic) spotted someone in the tall

elephant grass, and as I turned, the explosion occurred."

Maddox said he was the only one injured in the blast. "I was about 100 to 150 meters away. The medic provided first aid and I was loaded on the helicopter. That's all I remember up to that point."

Maddox's mother, Lila Maddox, said she couldn't be happier with her son.

"I'm very proud of him for all he's been through. Seeing him go through this, he's very lucky. He had a lot of people praying for him."

When Maddox was injured his mother expressed the outpouring of support she had received from people she didn't even know. "I had people calling me and checking on his status and offering me assistance in any way they could. I needed it."

She spoke of the visits by Command Sgt. Maj. James Brown to the hospital and his concern for Maddox. "I was overwhelmed; it just floored me."

"I know if I'm not around he's always got someone to turn to," she said.

Maddox agreed stating, "You've always got brothers and sisters to turn to in the military."



The prestigious Purple Heart medal is pinned onto Indiana National Guard Sgt. Tony Maddox for wounds he received in combat while serving in Iraq, by Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, The Adjutant General of Indiana. The ceremony took place at Joint Forces Headquarters in Indianapolis on November 30. Photo by Sgt. Mike Krieg, Indiana National Guard

Lilly Grant to VA Will Enhance Services for Returning Combat Veterans

VA NEWS RELEASE
OCTOBER 10, 2007

INDIANAPOLIS – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) will augment its world-class health care to local veterans with a \$9.9 million grant received today from the Lilly Endowment Inc.

The Indianapolis-based philanthropic foundation is providing the funds to the Richard L. Roudebush VA Medical Center to support a new clinic for injured service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and other projects, including a "comfort home" serving families of hospitalized service members while their loved ones undergo rehabilitation.

"The generosity of the Lilly Endowment will help VA to continue to provide our wounded warriors with the best in rehabilitation medical care," said VA Under Secretary for Health Dr. Michael J. Kussman, who accepted the grant on behalf of VA.

The grant will provide \$5.8 million for a 24,000-square-foot Seamless Transition Integrated Care Clinic where returning troops will receive comprehensive multidisciplinary health care. Another \$3.5 million will be used to build a 28-suite comfort home that will provide accommodations for veterans' families during extended periods of care.

In addition, the endowment is funding retreats at which veterans and their spouses or loved ones can reunite and learn to work through readjustment issues typically associated with returning from deployment.

Another \$500,000 is designated for rehabilitation events, including the National Veterans Golden Age Games, which the Roudebush VA Medical Center will host in the summer of 2008. This senior adaptive rehabilitation program is designed to improve the quality of life for older veterans, including those with a wide range of abilities and disabilities.

VA provides a comprehensive array of benefits and services tailored to meet the unique needs of

America's latest generation of combat veterans, including special access to VA health care for two years for those having no service-connected illnesses or injuries; poly trauma centers caring for the most severely injured that are setting new standards for multidisciplinary treatment of complex medical problems; world-class clinical care and research for veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and aggressive outreach program to help veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan access the benefits they have earned.

\$400,000 was given to Crane Technology, Inc. For a pilot project called the Crane Learning & Employment Center for Veterans, a program to help veterans with disabilities enter or reenter the workforce.

The Lilly Endowment was established in 1937 by members of the Lilly family as a vehicle to pursue their personal philanthropic interests. It is separate from the Eli Lilly and Co. pharmaceutical firm and is independently managed.

Honor Grounds Coffee Pledges to Support the Military Family



Honor Grounds Coffee has generously volunteered to donate 10 cents from every cup of coffee sold to the Military Family Relief Fund. They are currently distributing their coffee in convenience and grocery stores around Indiana. This could result in an annual donation of \$40-50,000 or more for the fund, for more information about Honor Grounds Coffee, please visit their web site at www.honorgrounds.com

DISCLAIMER: From time to time the IDVA Update will feature a product or service which we feel is unique or somehow beneficial to veterans or something which may be of interest to readers. This will be for informational purposes only and does not constitute IDVA nor the State of Indiana endorsement of the product or service. Readers must make their own decision concerning the practicality or the legitimacy of such product or service.

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs Mourns the Passing of Three County Veteran Service Officers

It is with great sadness that we must announce the passing of three county veteran service officers, Loran Rutledge former Montgomery County VSO and IDVA Commissioner, Ernie Grimes Sullivan County VSO, October 9, and Alan Polsgrove Howard County VSO October 24, 2007. All three shared a life long commitment to helping the veterans in their community. They will be missed.



From an article in The Journal Review

Written by Jamie Bar-
rand

October, 2, 2007

Loran "Rut" Rutledge lived by a simple motto.

"If it's good for the vets,
I want it."

Rutledge, who died Tuesday morning after a 10-month battle with lung cancer, was a veteran of two wars himself — World War II and the Korean Conflict. When he left the service he became a voice for other veterans as the Montgomery County veterans service officer. He held that post for four decades. Claude Johnson assumed the job of veterans service officer this past spring when Rutledge became too ill to continue.

"Nobody's going to replace Loran," Johnson said. "We'll try hard, but we'll fall short. He was a real inspiration to me and a lot of people."



Ernest "Ernie" E. Grimes, Sullivan County VSO, entered the United States Air Force in October 1955 serving for eight years. Ernie was appointed Sullivan County VSO January 1997.



Allen Polsgrove's military experience goes back to his high school days at Will Rogers High School in Tulsa Oklahoma. While a junior he enlisted in the 125th Fighter Interceptor Squadron (Augmented) of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. He served one tour in the guard and then transferred to the Air Force Reserve. Completing his obligation he entered Advance Corps AFROTC at the University of Oklahoma. Allen graduated from the University of Oklahoma, Norman Oklahoma in June 1966, with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree. Commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant USAFR on June 5th 1966. He served in the United States Air Force until December 1993, he was a Lieutenant Colonel. He was appointed as Howard County Veterans Service Officer on May 6, 1996 serving until his death October 24, 2007.

Largest Troop Activation Since WWII Departs From Indiana For The Middle East



By Rob Cooper, Crier staff
writer

INDIANAPOLIS -- In
the past 24 years, the RCA
Dome has crowned five
NCAA championships and

stood home to the world champion Indianapolis Colts, but on Jan. 2, the dome hosted the largest going away party in the Indiana's history.

The Indianapolis Colts, Gov. Mitch Daniels and the state of Indiana paid tribute to Hoosiers assigned to the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team before they departed on their journey that will take them to Iraq and back.

Today marked a hallowed and honored day for those close to the Indiana National Guard's 76th IBCT, who rallied under the dome to bid a fond farewell to more than 3,400 Soldiers called to duty. Packing stands along the dome's eastern half, thousands of loved ones and supporters braved cold weather and choked back swells of emotion to see off one of the largest deployments in Indiana since World War II.



Among the dignitaries in attendance was Colts President Bill Polian, who said that while the dome has had many memorable moments in the past, today marked a truly monumental occasion.

"I've heard that this place referred to as the 'Hall of Heroes' before," Polian said, "but those heroes don't wear the numbered sports jerseys; instead, they choose to wear the uniforms and insignia of Indiana's finest, the American Soldier."

Deploying in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the brigade is both prepared for the mission and proud to be part of it, said The 76th IBCT commander, Col. Courtney Carr.

"The Nighthawks are proud and fortunate to be Hoosiers," Carr said. "We've chosen to be Soldiers, knowing that the nation would call us to serve. For a great number of us here, this is not the first call, but we continue to choose the path of service to our nation."

As Soldiers unloaded duffels bags onto the field, many of them gave their last, tearful goodbyes to friends and relatives. But despite the distance that Soldiers will face during their 12-month deployment, family plays one of the most important roles in a successful mission, Carr said.

"For the next year, meals, sporting events, homework, doctor appointments and etcetera will fall completely on the families," Carr said. "But for many families, normal routines will be a little more difficult. Your strength at home, leading the family, and your support of our Soldiers and our mission is also a critical strength to our force."

"What you all do allows us the opportunity to choose to be soldiers," Carr added.

Christina Adams, who attended today's departure ceremony, said that she is fortunate to be a part of the Indiana National Guard family. Last Saturday, she married Pfc. Jeremy Adams as a final gift to him before he deploys.

(Continued on Page 12)

“For this organization, family comes first, and it means a lot to have all these people and programs that support our family available to us,” she said.

The brigade will begin their journey today to Fort Stewart, Ga., where they will complete a rigorous and immersive training routine prior to deploying to Iraq. After returning from a 10-day holiday break, the brigade’s focal point now lies in preparation.

“Right now our main focus is getting everyone prepped and trained to move one step at a time,” said 2nd Lt. Justin Newett, a member of the brigade’s E Company., 1st Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment. This will be Newett’s first overseas deployment.

“I’m not nervous yet, but as we get closer to Iraq I guess we’ll get to that, but right now I’m just concentrating on getting to Georgia to train.”

Carr assured many families that the brigade will receive some of the best and most comprehensive training available. “There is a clear relationship between well-trained, professional Soldiers and units and how successful they are in combat,” he said. “The training that we’ve worked so hard to complete ensures that every one of the Soldiers in front of you has the training to execute the missions to which we’ll be assigned.”

Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels credited the state’s adjutant general, Maj. Gen. R. Martin Umbarger, with once again preparing and sustaining a professional fighting force capable of defending Americans’ freedom.

“You were my first appointment and I have not made a better one,” he said. Daniels was also addressed members of the brigade, praising them for their service and sacrifices.

“You are the finest citizens of our state, and the finest citizens of our era,” he said.



Second Hoosier Women Veterans Conference Announced

The second Hoosier Women Veterans Conference will be held May 10, 2008, at the Indiana War Memorial, Downtown Indianapolis. This will be a time for all Hoosier Women Veterans, their friends and family to come together to celebrate the women's contributions to the armed forces.

During the conference the ladies and their guests will have the opportunity to hear speakers from the Federal and State Department of Veterans Affairs, and from speakers who are currently on active duty with the Armed Forces. The key note speaker will be Brigadier General Margaret Washburn of the Indiana National Guard. Letters and registration forms will be going out in the mail soon, if you know a lady veteran who would be interested in attending the conference please contact Kris Bertrand at 317-232-3921 or email at kabertrand@dva.in.gov. This is a free event, with lunch included and once again lots of chocolate!

Indiana War Memorial Museum Adding New Exhibit Showcasing Indiana's Contributions to The War Effort

By: Kris Bertrand

When I first moved here, I knew very little about this great state. I knew nothing about the role Indiana played in WWII. The only bit of WWII history that I associated with Indiana was the sinking of the USS Indianapolis; the worst naval disaster in the history of the US Navy.

One of the things that struck me was all of the monuments and memorials dedicated to Indiana's military veterans; Indianapolis has the most dedicated acreage honoring veterans outside of our nation's capital, Washington DC.

I never knew that Indiana, over the years, has played such an important role in supporting the war

effort with the manufacturing of the HUMVEE in Mishawaka, but also the MRE's that feed our troops, down in Evansville.

This is not just one area of the state doing their part, but all corners of the state. I was even more surprised to learn that LST's, during WWII were also manufactured here in Indiana both in Evansville and in northern Indiana. One of Indiana's own manufactured LST's can be seen in Evansville, the USS Snohomish County LST 1126.

Indiana also played a role in the history of military aviation with the manufacturing of airplane engines and transmissions and numerous other avionic parts.

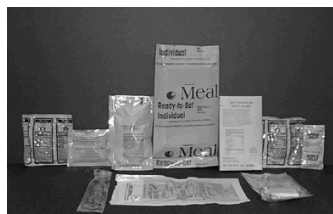
Brig Gen Goodwin reports that they are always hearing about other towns and cities that produced war items over the years and is attempting to identify them. The Indiana War Memorial Museum is adding a new exhibit that showcases war materials manufactured in Indiana. The museum is looking for documentation and artifacts/hardware to display in the new exhibit. Indiana has a proud heritage of not only supplying the best service members; we also provide the items to fight the war. Now is the time to tell that story.

If you know of an item that was made in Indiana to support the war effort over the years please contact Brig Gen J. Stewart Goodwin at 317-232-7616.



*USS Snohomish
County LST 1126*

*M1025 1 HUMVEE
by AM General*



*MRE's
by Ameriqueal Group LLC*

Attention All Hoosier Women Veterans, Please help us keep you informed about programs for women veterans, especially our upcoming Hoosier Women Veterans Conference, The purpose of the form is to serve as an informational bridge to connect women veterans to the numerous resources and benefits that are available and entitled to. The registry is strictly confidential and used solely as a link of information among Hoosier women veteran population. Please return complete registry forms to Women Veterans Coordinator Kris Bertrand.

Hoosier Women Veterans Registry



Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ . Home of record at time of entry in to the armed forces: _____

Branch of Service (Circle one): USA USMC USN USAF ANG USCG
USAR USMCR USNR USAFR ARNG USCGR

Are you currently registered with Women in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington DC?

Yes: ____ No: ____

If you are not registered would you be interested in registering?

Yes: ____ No: ____

Service dates: _____

Receiving VA or Medical Benefits: Yes No If yes, what benefit: _____
(i.e. pension, comp., medical, etc.)

Have received benefits in the past: Yes: ____ No: ____

If yes, what benefit:

Would you like a County Veteran's Service Officer in your local area to contact you to explain your potential benefits? Yes: ____ No: ____ County: _____

Would you like to receive the quarterly newsletter from the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs – IDVA Update – if so, please indicate whether you want it email or snail mail? _____

Please return this to:

Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Kris Bertrand State Service Officer/State Women Veterans Coordinator
302 West Washington Street RM E-120
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-3921 (Office)
317-232-7721 (Fax)

Or you may send via email to: kabertrand@dva.in.gov

The Indiana Operation Enduring Freedom/ Operation Iraqi Freedom Memorial Wall

**Indiana has sustained the following
casualties since the last Update**



**Indiana Army National
Guardsman, Sgt. Gerald J. Cassidy,
32, Westfield, Indiana.**

Died September 25, 2007, in Fort Knox, Ky., where he had been assigned to the Wounded Warrior Transition Program. He had been wounded during a combat operation in Iraq where he was deployed with a brigade combat team from the Minnesota National Guard. He was returned to the states in April after a year of duty.



**U.S. Navy Seaman Apprentice
Shayna Ann Schnell, 19, Tell City,
Indiana.**

Assigned to Naval Security Force Bahrain, Jebel Ali Detachment, United Arab Emirates; died Oct. 1, 2007 of injuries sustained in a vehicle accident. Schnell was visiting Dubai when the Sept. 24 accident occurred.



**U.S. Army Captain Timothy I.
McGovern, 28, Idaville, Indiana.**

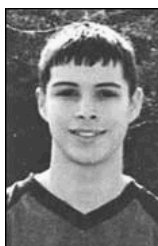
Died October 31, 2007 in Mosul, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, of injuries sustained when an improved explosive device detonated near his military vehicle.

He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, Texas.



**U.S. Army Sergeant Kenneth
R. Booker, 25, Vevay, Indiana.**

Died November 14, 2007 in Mukhisa, Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Washington.



**U.S. Army Specialist Johnathan
Alan Lahmann, 21, Richmond, Indi-
ana.**

Died in Tikrit, Iraq, December 10, 2007, of wounds suffered in Bayji, Iraq, when a improvised explosive device struck his vehicle. He was assigned to the 59th Engineer Company, 20th Engineer Battalion, 36th Engineer Brigade, Fort Hood, Texas.

Elkhart Memorial High School Holds First Veterans Day Ceremony



First Veterans Day ceremony was held at Elkhart Memorial High School, in Elkhart, Indiana. In attendance was Judge Evan Roberts (LTCOL, USMCR) who was also the guest speaker; Dave Foutz (USAF, Vietnam) County Council member; and Gary Whitehead, Elkhart County Veteran Service Officer were a part of the program.

Mr. Foutz is the Economics teacher at Memorial. The Marine Reserve Color Guard posted the colors while the school orchestra played a medley of patriotic songs.



Director's Comments

Responsibility for Indiana Veterans' Home May Transfer to IDVA

Senate Bill 250 will transfer the responsibility for the administration and maintenance of the Indiana Veterans' Home (IVH) at West Lafayette from the Department of Health (DOH) to the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs (IDVA).

If passed, effective July 1, 2008 the powers and duties of DOH relating to the Indiana Veterans' Home will be transferred to IDVA. On that date, IDVA becomes the owner of all IVH property and obligations. All funds connected with IVH will transfer to IDVA. This is a tremendous change for IDVA and is backed by all the veterans' organizations and the Daniels Administration. This legislation will probably be enacted into law.

Part of the transfer package will be Joe Fox, who is the Director of Special Projects with the DOH.

The IDVA Director will become his immediate supervisor, as well as the immediate supervisor of the superintendent of the IVH. The hiring and firing of the superintendent will become the responsibility of the IDVA director.

New State Service Officer?

Since the Indiana Code was revised last year by Senate Bill 480 my plans are for IDVA to become an accredited state for assisting veterans with claims for federal benefits. We will hire a third State Service Officer whose responsibility will include becoming accredited with the VA and assisting Hoosier veterans with their federal VA claims. That person would also be available to assist and train county veterans service officers and review the claims they are submitting for county veterans. The new State Service Officer would become accredited through the National Association of County Veterans' Service Officer (NACVSO) and could become their representative at the VA Regional Office. Accreditation by the other VSOs would also be desirable, however, I have been told by the American Legion that they would not accredit anyone who does not maintain space in their offices and are not under their supervision.